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0483 » How can I hide files from Explorer and/or Dir?

If you want to hide files from everyone and you have an NTFS partition, you can do it by using streams. NTFS allows a file to have multiple streams using

<filename>:<StreamName> syntax.

Open a **CMD** prompt and type:

notepad "MyFile.txt"

You will be prompted to create it. Click **Yes**. Enter some text and save the file. Do a **DIR** and record the size of the file. Now type:

notepad "MyFile.txt:secret"

You will be prompted to create it. Click **Yes**. Enter some text and save the file. Now type:

notepad "MyFile.txt:HideMe"

You will be prompted to create it. Click **Yes**. Enter some text and save the file. Now type:

DIR MyFile.txt

You will see that the streams are invisible and that the file size is the same as you originally recorded. Likewise, you will not see them in **Explorer**.
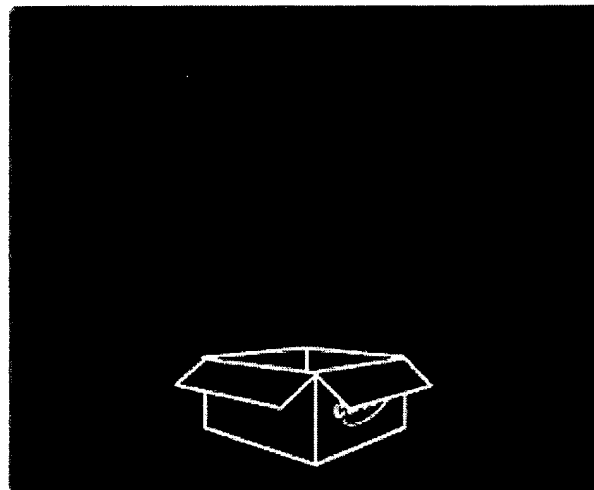
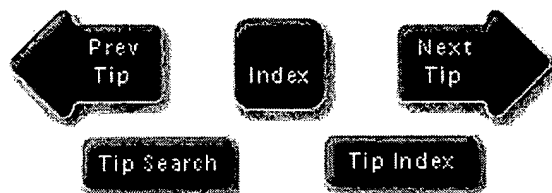You may read/edit your data by typing:

notepad "MyFile.txt:secret"

The only way I know to remove the streams is to copy the file to a **FAT** partition and then back again:

Copy MyFile.txt A:\
Copy A:\Myfile.txt MyFile.txt

A copy from an NTFS partition to an NTFS partition will preserve the streams.

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